

## Some Interesting Lepidoptera Records for Kent, 1975

By S. E. WHITEBREAD\*

*Cryptophlebia leucotreta* (Meyr.)

My most surprising record for 1975 was a perfect ♂ specimen of *Cryptophlebia leucotreta* (Meyr.) that I took in my garden M.V. trap on the 12th August at Higham, TQ/77A. Ford (*A Guide to the Smaller British Lepidoptera*, 1949), mentions one specimen bred from a larva on orange, but gives no further details. I believe there are additional records, but I can find no reference to them. The specimen figured by Bradley (*Ent. Gaz.*, 10: 60-80, Plate 18, fig. 214), shows well the peculiar mark on the hindwing, but it does not show the numerous raised scales similar to *Phtheochroa rugosana* (Hübner). The moth also sits very like a cochylid.

One must assume that it originated from imported material, but due to its polyphagous nature it is not impossible that it bred locally. Abroad it is a pest of many fruits, including oranges, apples and cotton. For this reason it is bred at at least one research centre in England. This, however, is far away from where I took my specimen.

*Brachmia inornatella* (Dougl.)

I took two specimens of this "inornate" gelechiid during a British Entomological Society field meeting, that I lead, at Higham Canal, TQ/77B, on the 21st June. One came to M.V. light and the other I found flying inside my car, both well after midnight. This species has not previously been taken in Kent and I believe it is the first record of its occurrence outside the fens and marshes of East Anglia. The larva is thought to feed in stems of *Phragmites communis* Trin, which is quite common in the canal. Since this field meeting, the road along the canal has been considerably widened on the canal side and a larger size drain has been installed at one point, causing the water level to drop considerably. This has been worsened by the recent dry weather. Finally, the Inland Waterways Association are trying to persuade the local council that it would be a good idea to restore the canal to its former glory! I have, however, strongly pointed out to the Council the value to naturalists of the Higham end of the canal.

*Pima boisduvaliella* (Guen.)

One specimen of *Pima boisduvaliella* (Guen.) was taken by Robert Dyke, David Agassiz and myself at Stoke Saltings, TQ/87H, at M.V. light on the 5th August. This species is not known to breed in Kent, but is resident very locally on the coast of Suffolk. It has not previously to my knowledge, been taken in W. Kent. It could occur on one of the Leguminous plants growing on the sea wall at Stoke or on the shore in certain localities on the Isle of Sheppey, but it is more likely a vagrant from the Suffolk coast.

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*Epinotia signatana* (Dougl.)

I bred a single specimen of this species on the 2nd June from spinings off Crab Apple taken during the Kent Field Club field meeting at Ellenden Wood, Blean, TR/06W, on 17th May. It appears that this uncommon moth has not previously been recorded from Kent and that Crab Apple is not one of its recorded foodplants. These are *Prunus spinosa*, *P. cerasus* and *P. padus*.

*Coleophora clypeiferella* Hofm.

On 7th August, John Roche and I took two perfect specimens of this elusive Coleophorid on Dartford Marshes, TQ/57M, at M.V. light. A search on some *Chenopodium* plants nearby on the 28th September revealed the larvae, but they were very difficult to detect amongst the browning seeds. John Roche has since informed me that this locality, which also harboured *Eucosma pupillana* (Clerck) has now been bulldozed over. This latter species, however, has recovered from such decimation before in this locality and so it will probably do so again.

*Agonopterix carduella* (Hüb.)

A specimen of this moth was bred on the 23rd July from a larva feeding in a rolled leaf of *Centaurea nigra* L. at Queen-down Warren, TQ/86G, on 30th June. The only other occasion that this moth has been taken in Kent in recent times, was when J. M. Chalmers-Hunt and S. Wakely took larvae in rolled leaves of *Centaurea* in a wood near Dover on the 17th July, 1963 (*Ent Rec.*, 76: 94).

*Cnephasia genitalana* Pierce & Metcalfe

On the 3rd August at Folkestone Warren, TR/23P, one could not help noticing an abundance of *Cnephasia* sp. flying around in the late afternoon, along the first stretch of zig-zag path that descends below Capel. They looked as if they had only just emerged, and I didn't have to look far to see from where. The old pupal cases were extruding from spun flowers of *Ononis*. I picked a small bag of flowers, from which I bred a good series. As most of the specimens corresponded more closely with the pale form of *Cnephasia stephensiana* (Doubl.) figured in Bradley (*British Tortricoid Moths*, 1973) than his *C. genitalana* P. & M., I looked at the genitalia of both sexes. This confirmed their identity as a *genitalana*. Bradley gives June/early July for the pupa which he states is enclosed in a flimsy cocoon spun amongst debris, but this does not agree with my observations.

*Mythimna unipuncta* (Haw.)

A single ♀ came to my M.V. trap at Higham, TQ/77A, on the night of the 6th/7th October.

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HETEROGRAPHIS OBLITELLA (ZELLER) (LEP.: PYRALIDAE) IN NORFOLK. — This moth seems to be extending its range. A single rather worn specimen appeared at my light at Hickling, Norfolk, on 4th July, 1976. Is this its furthest northern occurrence in Britain so far, and is there any previous record for Norfolk? — J. M. CHALMERS-HUNT.